



**We Make Politics Happen**

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HGEA LOCAL 152  
AFSCME AFL CIO

September 23, 2013

Randy Perreira, Executive Director  
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P.O. Box 2930  
Honolulu, HI 96802

*Randy -*  
Aloha Brother Perreira:

As a union of 1.6 million members across the entire country, we never expect to achieve unanimity among our ranks when it comes to policy positions or political endorsements. That's why we engage in a robust system of education, communication and internal debate - especially before we make important decisions. We want to make sure that every AFSCME member has access to the information they need before making their individual decision about an issue or a candidate.

But when it comes time to make a collective decision there can be only one official position and one official endorsement of the union. It can be confusing to our allies or candidates if more than one official AFSCME endorsement is claimed by our members or leaders. When it comes to federal elections, the choice resides with the AFSCME PEOPLE Committee of the International Union. While we work in close consultation with affiliates to help guide this decision, the decision ultimately falls to our national leaders.

This process can be difficult when individual members or affiliates have strong but differing positions on an endorsement, particularly in a primary election in which we have two friends of our union running against each other. But just because it is difficult, that does not mean that we shy away from making those tough decisions.

In the case of the US Senate primary election in Hawaii next year, we faced one of these difficult situations. Both candidates have been close friends and supporters of our union in their state roles and in Congress. In this instance, however, AFSCME PEOPLE has formally endorsed Senator Brian Schatz for Senate and will be directing the resources of our political action program to ensuring his successful election.

Lee Saunders President

Laura Reyes Secretary-Treasurer

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

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In accordance with the federal law, AFSCME PEOPLE will accept contributions only from members of AFSCME and their families. Contributions or gifts to AFSCME PEOPLE are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

This choice was not made lightly nor without a full examination of the relevant facts. There are specific factors that tipped the balance in Senator Schatz's favor:

- Schatz is an incumbent Senator who is working closely with AFSCME to protect funding for state and local governments against a hostile US House run by anti-union, anti-government conservatives. His continuation in office and resulting seniority are critical to our members in Hawaii and the rest of the country.
- Schatz has been a passionate defender of retirement security and a leader of the fight against chained-CPI, which would harm vulnerable seniors in Hawaii and elsewhere

Whoever wins the primary next summer, we are confident that they will be a strong ally in the Senate for many years to come. The choice of how to cast a ballot belongs to each individual Hawaii voter. We hope that a majority of them will join us in supporting Senator Brian Schatz in the primary election next year.

In solidarity,



LEE SAUNDERS  
President

LS:bjm